

Message Text

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53

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 SCI-06 AID-20 HEW-08 SS-15 L-03

H-02 NSC-10 PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-12 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 RSR-01 /131 W
----- 064325

R 150945 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6499

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: EAID, PFOR, SWEL, TBID, BU, WHO

SUBJ: WHO ABANDONS MEDICAL PROJECT BULGARIA

REF: SOFIA A-65, APRIL 2, 1973

1. SUMMARY. DIRECTOR OF WHO PROJECT IN BULGARIA HAS TOLD US GENEVA HEADQUARTERS HAS APPROVED HIS RECOMMENDATION TO TERMINATE ENTIRE PROJECT NO LATER THAN JULY 1 AS RESULT OF GOB UNWILLINGNESS TO MEET TERMS OF AGREEMENT. HE PLANS TO INFORM GOB THIS DECISION IN NEXT FEW DAYS. END SUMMARY.

2. DECISION TO TERMINATE PROJECT TO DEVELOP NATIONAL COMPUTERIZED CENTER FOR EPIDEMIOLOGY IS RESULT OF GOB EFFORT TO REDUCE EXPENDITURE WHO FUNDS THIS YEAR FROM 500,000 TO 300,000 DOLLARS ALTHOUGH ACCORDING TO AGREEMENT, ALLOCATION OF FUNDS IS NOT WITHIN HOST COUNTRY' S POWER.

3. IN APRIL MINISTRY OF HEALTH INFORMED PROJECT DIRECTOR THAT ANTICIPATED FELLOWSHIPS FOR VISITING SPECIALISTS HAD BEEN REDUCED FROM 3 WEEKS TO 1 WEEK. THIS, ACCORDING TO DIRECTOR, WAS STRAW THAT BROKE CAMEL' S BACK, AND HE RECOMMENDED WITHDRAWAL OF ALL PERSONNEL ASAP.

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4. DESPITE GOB EFFORTS TO OVERTURN DECISION IN WHO HEADQUARTERS GENEVA, LOCAL DIRECTOR NOW AUTHORIZED TO INFORM GOB OF DECISION TO HALT FUNDING AND WITHDRAW PERSONNEL BY JULY 1. EQUIPMENT DONATED TO DATE WILL REMAIN, BUT HEART OF PROJECT, A LARGE COMPUTER, WILL NOT BE DELIVERED.

5. COMMENT. GOB MAY HAVE UNDERESTIMATED WHO TENACITY IN MEETING TERMS OF AGREEMENT. PROJECT DIRECTOR ATTRIBUTES GOB ATTITUDE TO DESIRE TO OBTAIN COMPUTER WITHOUT, HOWEVER, ACCEPTING NECESSARY TECHNICAL ADVICE FROM FOREIGN SPECIALISTS. HE DOES NOT RULE OUT STRONG REACTION - INCLUDING IMMEDIATE CANCELATION OF VISA- WHEN GOB INFORMED OF DECISION.
HOUSTON

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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